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STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

STATE BOARD OF DENTISTRY

In the Matter of

)
Administrative Action
)
DENISE FIDUCIA, R.D.A.
)
ORDER

This matter was opened to the New Jersey Board of Dentistry ("Board") upon information that Denise Fiducia, a Registered Dental Assistant ("respondent"), failed to submit payment for a current certificate of registration. Respondent did remit check# 2662 for the correct amount of \$70.00 for her Dental Assistant Registration, however, the check was returned to the Board Office unpaid due to insufficient funds.

A review of the Board's records revealed that respondent was contacted by letters sent regular and certified mail dated November 10, 1997 and January 8, 1998 advising her that her check had been returned and asking for a replacement check in the amount of \$70.00. The record further reflects that the Board office received the signed, certified mail "green" cards on both occasions.

Payment was not received from respondent in response to either correspondence.

On May 7, 1998 the Board issued an Order to Show Cause why the respondent's registration should not be suspended for failure to pay for a current certificate of registration pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:6-10. A hearing was set for July 8, 1998. Respondent did not appear at the hearing in this matter and was therefore found in default by the Board. The matter was presented to the Board on behalf of the State by Hakima Bey-Lawson, Deputy Attorney General. Testimony was obtained from Agnes Clarke, Executive Director of the Board, regarding receipt of the initial check and subsequent attempts to obtain the \$70.00 payment.

Having reviewed the entire record, including the testimony of Ms. Clarke at the hearing, the Board has determined that respondent has failed to pay the \$70.00 registration fee for a current certificate of registration.

It appearing to the Board that good cause exists for the entry of this Order,

IT IS ON THIS 24 th DAY OF JULY, 1998,

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. The certificate of registration of respondent Denise Fiducia, R.D.A. shall be and hereby is suspended effective upon entry of this Order. Respondent shall observe the provisions of the directives for licensees whose licenses have been suspended or revoked, a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part of the within Order.

2. Respondent's certificate of registration shall remain suspended until such time as she pays the registration fee of \$70.00, the late fee of \$100.00 and the reinstatement fee of \$200.00. Prior to receiving a current registration, respondent shall also pay the costs of the hearing in the amount of \$110.00 which represents the cost of obtaining a transcript in this matter. The total amount of \$480.00 must be paid by certified check or money order payable to the State of New Jersey and forwarded to Agnes M. Clarke, Executive Director, New Jersey State Board of Dentistry, P.O. Box 45005, Sixth Floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey 07101.

New Jersey Board of Dentistry

DIRECTIVE REGARDING FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF BOARD LICENSEE WHO HAS BEEN SUSPENDED/ REVOKED AND USE OF THE PROFESSIONAL PREMISES

A practitioner whose license is suspended or revoked or whose surrender of license with or without prejudice has been accepted by the Board shall conduct him/herself as follows.

- 1) Promptly deliver to the Board the original license and current biennial registration and, if authorized to prescribe drugs, the current State and Federal Controlled Dangerous Substances registrations.
- 2) Desist and refrain from the practice of dentistry in any form either as principal or employee of another licensee.
- 3) Inform each patient at the time of any inquiry of the suspended or revoked or retired status of the licensee. When a new licensee is selected by a patient, the disciplined practitioner shall promptly make available the original or a complete copy of the existing patient record to the new licensee, or to the patient if no new licensee is selected. Such delivery of record does not waive any right of the disciplined practitioner to claim compensation earned for prior services lawfully rendered.
- 4) Not occupy, share or use office space in which another licensee practices dentistry.
- services, giving an opinion as to the practice of dentistry or its application, or any advice with relation thereto; and from holding him/herself out to the public as being entitled to practice dentistry or in any way assuming to be a practicing professional or assuming, using or advertising in relation thereto in any other language or in such a manner as to convey to the public the impression that such person is a legal prohibition includes refraining during the period of suspension or revocation from placement of any advertisement or professional practice or good standing.
- appears as a dentist in practice. If the practitioner was formerly authorized to issue written prescriptions for medication or treatment, such prescription pads shall be destroyed if the license was revoked. If the license was suspended, the prescriptions shall be destroyed or shall be stored in a secure location to prevent theft or any use whatsoever until issuance of a Board Order authorizing use by the practitioner. Similarly, medications possessed for office use shall be lawfully disposed

of, transferred or safeguarded.

- 7) Not share in any fee for dental services performed by any other licensee following the suspension, revocation or surrender of license, but the practitioner may be compensated for the reasonable value of the services lawfully rendered and disbursements incurred on the patient's behalf prior to the effective date of the suspension, revocation or surrender.
- 8) Use of the professional premises. The disciplined licensee may allow another licensee to use the office premises formerly occupied by the disciplined licensee on the following conditions only:
- (a) The new licensee shall conduct the practice in every respect as his/her own practice including billings, claim forms, insurance provider numbers, telephone numbers, etc.
- (b) The disciplined licensee may accept no portion of the fees for professional services rendered by the new licensee, whether by percentage of revenue, per capita patient, or by any other device or design, however denominated. The disciplined licensee may, however, contract for or accept payment from the new license for rent (not exceeding fair market value) of the premises and either dispose of or store the dental material and equipment, but in no event shall the disciplined licensee, on the basis of a lease or any other agreement for compensation place in the possession of any operator, assistant or other agent such dental material and equipment, except by a chattel mortgage.
- (c) No use of name of disciplined licensee or personally owned office name or tax- or provider identification number.
 - Where the disciplined licensee was using an individual IRS number or where the licensee was the sole member of an incorporated professional association or a corporation, the disciplined licensee may contract to rent the office premises to a new practitioner. The new practitioner must use his/her own name and own provider number on all bills and insurance claim forms. Neither the name nor the number of the disciplined licensee may be used. When the license of a sole practitioner has been revoked, a trade name must be cancelled and a professional service corporation must be dissolved.
 - 2. Where the disciplined licensee is a

member of a professional group which uses a group-type name such as the ABC Dental Group, the disciplined licensee must arrange to have his/her name deleted, covered up or otherwise obliterated on all office signs, advertisements published by the group after the effective date of the Board disciplinary Order and on all printed billings and stationery. The other group members may continue to function under the incorporated or trade name, minus the name of the disciplined licensee, and may continue to use its corporate or professional identification number.

- (9) Report promptly to the Board compliance with each directive requiring moneys to be reimbursed to patients or to other persons or third party payors or to any court, and regarding supervisory reports or other special conditions of the Order.
- (10) A practitioner whose license is surrendered, revoked or actively suspended for one year or more shall conduct him/herself as follows:
- 1) Promptly require the publishers of any professional directory and any other professional list in which such licensee's name is known by the disciplined licensee to appear, to remove any listing indicating that the practitioner is a licensee of the Board in good standing.
- 2) Promptly require any and all telephone companies to remove the practitioner's listing in any telephone directory indicating that such practitioner is a practicing professional.
- Board disciplinary Order shall, within 90 days after the effective date of the Board Order, file with the Executive Director of the Board a detailed affidavit specifying by correlatively lettered and numbered paragraphs how such person set forth the residence or other address and telephone number to which communications may be directed to such person. Any change reported to the Executive Director.